

The Anthribid Beetles of the Genus *Mecotropis* (Coleoptera, Anthribidae) from North Vietnam

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Abstract Three Vietnamese species of the anthribid genus *Mecotropis* collected by Shinji NAGAI are reported. One of them is identified with *M. cylindricus* JORDAN, 1904, originally described from Tonkin, and another is with *M. vitalis* (JORDAN, 1916), originally described from Cambodia and not recorded from N. Vietnam. The other proved to be new to science, and is described under the name of *M. vietnamensis*, which resembles *M. icanus* JORDAN, 1911, known from Malakka.

The genus *Mecotropis* LACORDAIRE comprises thirty-eight species of anthribid beetles known up to the present, which are mainly distributed in Southeast Asia. Two of them, *Mecotropis cylindricus* JORDAN, 1904, and *Mecotropis vitticollis tonkinianus* JORDAN, 1916, have hitherto been known from North Vietnam.

In July to August, 1990, Mr. Shinji NAGAI of Tokyo visited North Vietnam for collecting insects. Some anthribids collected on that occasion were submitted to me for taxonomic study, all collected at the top of Mt. Tamdao (about 1,300 m alt.) lying about 40 km northwest of Hanoi. Three species of the genus *Mecotropis* were included in the collection, and after a careful examination, one of them was identified with *M. cylindricus* JORDAN, 1904, originally described on a single male from the Mauson Mts., Tonkin, another was with *M. vitalis* JORDAN, 1916, originally described from Samber in Cambodia and not recorded from North Vietnam, and the other was found to be new to science. They will be reported in the present paper.

Before going further, I wish to express my sincere gratitude to Professor Y. WATANABE of the Laboratory of Entomology, Tokyo University of Agriculture, and Professor K. MORIMOTO of the Entomological Laboratory, Kyushu University, for their constant guidance and encouragement. I am much indebted to Dr. S.-I. UENO of the National Science Museum (Nat. Hist.), Tokyo, for kindly reading the original manuscript of the present paper, and to Mr. S. NAGAI of Tokyo, for his kindness in providing me with the valuable specimens.

Mecotropis cylindricus JORDAN

Mecotropis cylindricus JORDAN, 1904, Novit. zool., 11: 230; 1916, *ibid.*, 23: 360; 1923, Faune ent. Indochine, Saigon, 6: 74.

Specimen examined. 1 ♀, Mt. Tamdao (about 1,300 m alt.), N. Vietnam, 12-

VII~2-VIII-1990, Shinji NAGAI leg.

Distribution. N. Vietnam, Laos.

Note. This species was originally described from a single male taken on the Mauson Mts., Tonkin. After that, it was recorded from Luang Prabang, Mt. Mekong, Vien Vai, and Muong Sen, all in Laos.

Mecotropis vitalis (JORDAN)

Mecocerus [err.] *vitalis* JORDAN, 1916, Novit. zool., **23**: 360.

Mecotropis Vitalisi [sic]: JORDAN, 1923, Faune ent. Indochine, Saigon, **6**: 74-75.

Specimen examined. 1 ♂, Mt. Tamdao (about 1,300 m alt.), N. Vietnam, 12-VII~2-VIII-1990, Shinji NAGAI leg.

Distribution. N. Vietnam, Cambodia.

Notes. This species was originally described on the basis of a single female, collected by VITALIS at Sambor in Cambodia. It has not been recorded from North Vietnam, and this is the first record from there.

JORDAN made two mistakes. In the original description, he named this species "*Mecocerus vitalis* spec. nov.", though he used "*Mecotropis vitalis*" in the comparative note with related species (p. 360, fig. 3). When he recorded the specimen again in "Les Anthribides de l'Indochine", he used "*Mecotropis Vitalisi*" four times (pp. 74-75).

Mecotropis vietnamensis SENOH, sp. nov.

(Fig. 1)

Length: 20.0 mm (from apical margin of rostrum to apex of pygidium).

Female. Body thick, about 3.3 times as long as wide, including rostrum and pygidium. Colour entirely black. Pubescence dense, whitish and blackish; blackish hairs of elytra forming an inverse V-shaped patch at the basal part, a V-shaped one at the middle, a transverse one behind the middle, and a pair of round ones at the sides of the base. Antennae with 8th and apical half of 7th segments covered with whitish hairs.

Head thick, and with a deep longitudinal sulcus between eyes to basal parts of antennae; eyes relatively large, hemispherical, strongly convex above, and moderately approximate to each other; rostrum thick, relatively short, widest at the middle, and strongly emarginate at the middle of anterior margin, and with a pair of deep triangular fossae in front of the basal parts of antennae; maximum width of rostrum about 2.7 times as wide as the shortest distance between eyes. Antennae short, just reaching the base of elytra, proportions in length from 1st to 11th about 26: 18: 30: 30: 30: 27: 30: 25: 39: 33: 41, apical three segments somewhat compressed.

Pronotum somewhat barrel-shaped, convex above, about 1.1 times as wide as long, widest at the middle; disc longitudinally depressed and strongly swollen at the

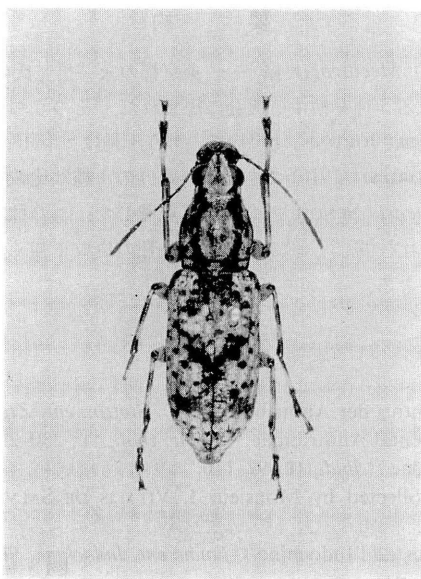


Fig. 1. *Mecotropis vietnamensis* SENO, sp. nov., ♀, from N. Vietnam.

centre; dorsal transverse carina weakly trisinate, and roundly connected with each lateral carina, the latter horizontally extending to the subapical part of side margin; carinula distinct. Scutellum nearly hemispherical. Elytra oblong and thick, about 2.0 times as long as wide, parallel-sided in basal seven-tenths, then narrowed posteriorly; striae punctures small, becoming smaller and shallower from base towards subapical part, their diameter being distinctly smaller than the widths of intervals. Pygidium linguiform, extending backwards, nearly as long as wide; lateral margins reflexed, gradually convergent towards broadly rounded apex; hairs sparse in apical third.

Prosternum with a deep transverse sulcus in front of coxal cavities; mesosternal process linguiform; metasternum with a deep triangular fossa in front of intercoxal part; 1st to 5th visible sternites, viewed from side, conjointly almost horizontal. Legs long and thin, and sparsely covered with fine deep punctures except for tarsi; anterior, median and posterior femora subequal in length to one another, anterior one thick; anterior tibia a little longer than the median which is nearly as long as the posterior; anterior tarsus shorter than the posterior which is shorter than the median.

Male. Unknown.

Holotype ♀, Mt. Tamdao (about 1,300 m alt.), N. Vietnam, 12-VII~2-VIII-1990, Shinji NAGAI leg. The holotype is deposited in the collection of the National Science Museum (Nat. Hist.), Tokyo.

Distribution. N. Vietnam.

Notes. In general appearance, this species somewhat resembles *Mecotropis icanus* JORDAN, 1911, known from Malakka, but can be distinguished from the latter by the differently formed elytral markings and strongly convex eyes.

要 約

妹尾俊男：北ベトナム産の *Mecotropis* 属。—— 東京都の永井信二氏のご好意により、北ベトナム産の *Mecotropis* 属に含まれる3種を検査する機会に恵まれた。そのうちの1種はすでにトンキンから記載されている *M. cylindricus* JORDAN, 1904 で、もう1種はカンボジアから記載され北ベトナムからは未記録の *M. vitalis* (JORDAN, 1916) であった。残りの1種は比較検討の結果、新種と認められたので、*Mecotropis vietnamensis* SENOH と命名して記載した。この種は、マラッカから記載された *M. icanus* JORDAN, 1911 に比較的好く似ているが、上翅の斑紋や強く張り出した複眼などの差異により容易に識別することができる。

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